REMARKS

Claims 14, 17, 19 and 22 have been amended for clarification. Claims 14-23 are pending and under consideration. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

I.   OBJECTION TO CLAIMS 14-23:

Claims 14-23 have been amended to overcome the objection. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the objection is overcome.

II.   REJECTION OF CLAIMS 14-23 UNDER 35 U.S.C. 112:

Claims 14, 17, 19 and 22 have been amended to overcome the rejection. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

III.   REJECTION OF CLAIMS 14-23 UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103(a) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER TSUCHIDA ET AL. (U.S. PATENT NO. 5,559,997; HEREINAFTER "TSUCHIDA") (newly cited) IN VIEW OF ROBERTSON ET AL. (U.S. PATENT NO. 6,594,799; HEREINAFTER "ROBERTSON") (previously cited):

The present invention, as recited in amended claim 14, for example, relates to a server apparatus for controlling the transit of information relative to a noise countermeasure. The server apparatus comprises registered noise countermeasure information storing means for storing noise countermeasure information requested for registration by a registration terminal connected to the server apparatus via a network, and circuit information acquiring means for acquiring circuit information from a user terminal connected via the network, which uses the registered noise countermeasure information, the circuit information being included in items corresponding to a state of electronic circuits.

The server apparatus as recited in amended claim 14, further comprises noise countermeasure list information generating means for generating noise countermeasure list information based on said registered noise countermeasure information and said circuit information, the generated noise countermeasure list information including a plurality of noise countermeasure processes and transmitting the generated noise countermeasure list information to said user terminal, and noise countermeasure information determining means for

executing one of the noise countermeasure processes selected by the user from said generated noise countermeasure list information, according to the items, which is required for the noise countermeasure, and transmitting noise countermeasure information which is determined as a result of the execution of the one of the plurality of noise countermeasure processes, to said user terminal.

Various embodiments of the present invention provide the advantage of a user being able to select a noise countermeasure process from a plurality of noise countermeasure processes.

Neither Tsuchida nor Robertson, individually or combined, disclose the features as recited in amended claim 14 above. For example, neither of these references disclose a server apparatus comprising "registered noise countermeasure information storing means for storing noise countermeasure information requested for registration by at least one registration terminal connected to the server apparatus via a network," as recited amended claim 14.

Instead, Tsuchida discloses a PC design system in FIG. 2, which includes a CPU, RAM, ROM, a interactive input unit, an external storage unit, a display unit and a print unit (see column 14, line 1 – column 15, line 32). The RAM stores a program for realizing the functions of an interactive input command process unit, a design information input unit, an output unit, a circuit modification unit, an evaluation unit, a layout unit and a design rule generation unit to be executed by the CPU. The interactive input unit is a keyboard or mouse to receive information from the designer. The circuit information input unit receives circuit information on the connection amount the components from information produced by an external device or CAD for circuits. Such as name shape or electric characteristics of each component. The external storage unit is a magnetic disk or the like with stores component information, board information design rules, noise reduction component circuit pattern information, evaluation information, or the like *as files* and reads out these different information when the system is started and write into the component information storage unit, the noise reduction component circuit pattern information storage unit and the evaluation information storage unit, respectively. That is, in Tsuchida, a user of the PC design system cannot selectively determine a noise countermeasure process from a list of countermeasure processes registered by registrants via a network (i.e., the Internet) to be used. Instead, in Tsuchida, the noise reduction information is predetermined and provided to the user by the PC design system to be used, the noise reduction information being received from information stored in the external storage unit (i.e., a diskette).

At page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner admits that Tsuchida does not disclose

"generated noise countermeasure list information including a plurality of noise countermeasure processes," as recited in claim 14, for example.

Further, the Examiner has admitted that Robertson does not teach tools and services including "noise countermeasure information". Instead, Robertson merely discloses a portal side with provides engineers access to information on electronic components and design automation tools which enables commercial transactions between end users and suppliers of the electronic components, the data being stored in a remote database (see column 6, lines 19-36). Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that Robertson fails to make up for the deficiencies of Tsuchida mentioned above.

Thus, the Applicant respectfully submits that the teachings of Tsuchida and Robertson are fundamentally different from that of the present invention and from each other.

Although the above comments are specifically directed to claim 14, it is respectfully submitted that the comments would be helpful in understanding differences of various other rejected claims over the cited reference.

Therefore, the combination of Tsuchida and Robertson fails to establish a prima facie case of obviousness over the present invention. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

IV.   CONCLUSION:

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that each of the claims patentably distinguishes over the prior art, and therefore, defines allowable subject matter. A prompt and favorable reconsideration of the rejection along with an indication of allowability of all pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.
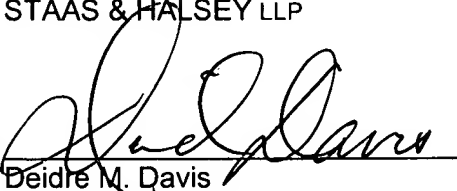
If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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